



This fact sheet . . .

- provides site background information.
- outlines cleanup remedy changes.
- answers frequently asked questions about the site.
- lists sources to contact for additional information.

You're Invited!

Come meet the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA representatives who have been working on cleanup activities at the Buckeye site:

Open House/Availability Session

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 1997

Place: St. Clairsville
Recreation Center
102 Fair Avenue
St. Clairsville

Time: Any time between
6:30 and 8:30 p.m.



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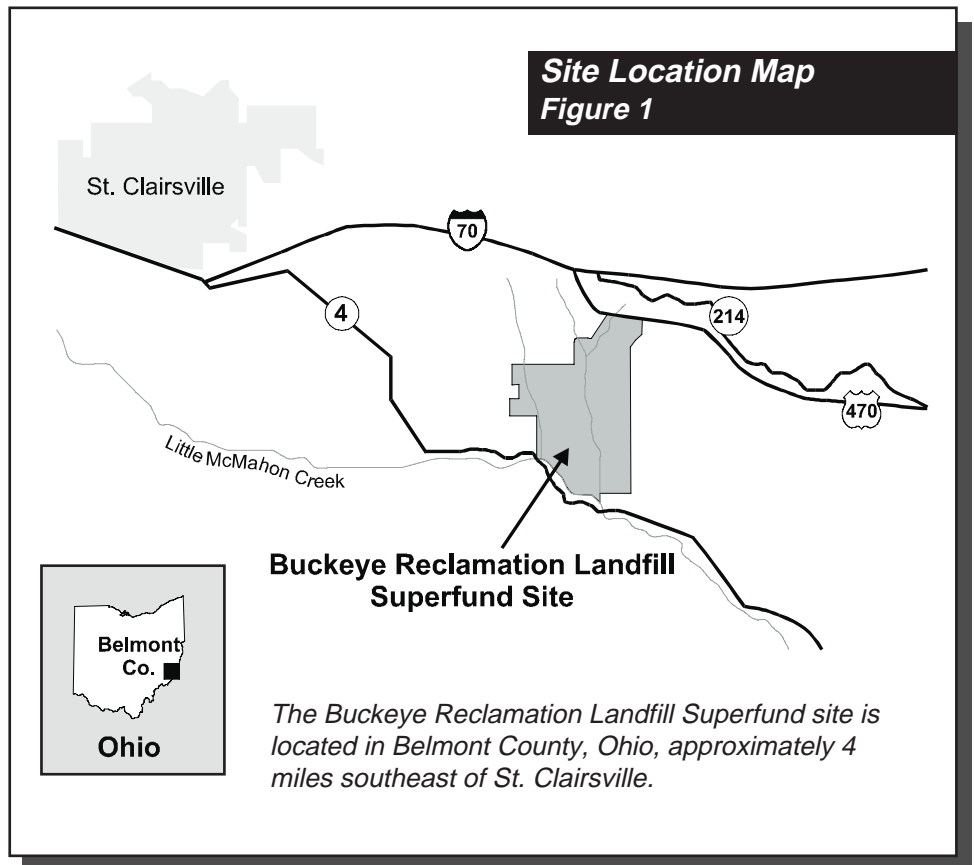
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U.S. EPA Announces Changes in Cleanup Remedy

Buckeye Reclamation Landfill Superfund Site
Belmont County, Ohio

August 1997



Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), in cooperation with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), has issued a document called an Explanation of Significant Differences to explain and justify changes in the cleanup remedy for the Buckeye Reclamation Landfill Superfund site (Buckeye site)¹. These changes will expedite site cleanup, reduce cleanup costs, and protect human health and the environment.

¹Under Section 117(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, U.S. EPA is required to publish an explanation of significant differences between the remedial action taken and the record of decision (ROD).

Background Information



1991 Cleanup Remedy

The 1991 cleanup decision for the Buckeye site included the following components:

- Subtitle D solid waste landfill cap over 97 acres.
- Fencing and institutional controls, such as deed restrictions on site land and ground-water use.
- Ground-water and leachate collection.
- Monitoring of ground water, leachate, and surface water in Kings Run.
- Ground-water/leachate treatment, possibly by constructed wetlands.

From 1971 to 1991, Ohio Resources Corporation, under the name of Buckeye Reclamation Company, operated a municipal landfill on about 64 acres of the site. From about 1976 to 1979, the landfill also accepted industrial sludge and liquids. Before 1950, coal mine refuse from deep mines in the area was deposited in the valley, resulting in the damming of Kings Run and the creation of several impoundment areas, including the Northern Impoundment and the Waste Pit.

In 1980, Ohio EPA sampled Kings Run upstream and downstream of the landfill and found elevated concentrations of chromium, phenol, and ammonia downstream of the landfill. In 1983, U.S. EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List, the list of Superfund sites.

U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA oversaw an environmental study, called an remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS), that was completed in 1990. RI/FS results showed contamination present in the ground water, leachate, surface water, and surface soils at the site. It also confirmed that site contaminants originate from both on-site coal mine refuse, which was present before landfilling activities, and from solid and industrial wastes disposed of in the landfill. Based on these results, U.S. EPA signed a record of decision (ROD) in 1991, documenting the selected cleanup remedy.

Explanation of Significant Differences

U.S. EPA, in cooperation with Ohio EPA, proposes two major changes and several other improvements to the 1991 cleanup remedy for the Buckeye site. The two major changes are:

- (1) The area to be covered by the solid waste landfill cap has been reduced from 97 acres to 37 acres (Figure 2).
- (2) The need for a ground-water/leachate treatment system will be assessed once the cap is in place for one year. If treatment is necessary, the system will be designed and constructed.

Remedy improvements include:

- Realignment and lining of Kings Run.
- Elimination of Northern Impoundment.

These improvements minimize the amount of water flowing through the landfill that could carry contaminants off site. Also, lining Kings Run will help to isolate it from landfill contaminants.

Finally, further definition has been added to the remedy by specifying that background ground-water levels will be set using ground-water samples collected from areas affected by coal mine refuse.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Answers

Over the last several years, U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA have met with local residents to talk about their concerns regarding the Buckeye site. This section provides answers to frequently asked questions about the site.



Will site cleanup affect the waste transfer station?

The Belmont/Jefferson County Solid Waste District is responsible for the solid waste transfer station near the Buckeye site. The 1991 cleanup remedy for the Buckeye site, as well as changes outlined in the explanation of significant differences, will not affect transfer station operations.

Will I be responsible for site cleanup if I threw household garbage in the landfill many years ago?

Hazardous substances, not household garbage, is the concern at the Buckeye site.

Will site cleanup hurt industry in the area?

U.S. EPA recognizes that enforcement of environmental regulations has changed many industrial operations across the country, challenging government and industry to look for new and better ways to operate in an environmentally safe way. Implementing the cleanup at the Buckeye site will mean resolution of many liability questions for many parties potentially responsible for the Buckeye site. These parties are working with U.S. EPA to reach an agreement to complete the cleanup of the Buckeye site.

Does the landfill threaten human health or the environment?

Once the cleanup at the Buckeye site is complete, the landfill will not pose a significant risk to human health and the environment. Long-term monitoring and maintenance, two critical parts of the remedy, will ensure that any unanticipated future risks that might arise will be recognized and addressed. Without remediation, however, the landfill could pose long-term risks due to contaminants from the landfill seeping into ground water and surface water and flowing off site.

What agencies oversee site cleanup?

U.S. EPA is the “lead” agency, making sure that cleanup is done properly and according to design plans. Ohio EPA will be able to review and comment on all reports and activities related to site cleanup.

How much will site cleanup cost and who pays for it?

Working together with the parties involved in cleaning up the Buckeye site has led to a remedy that U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA believe is very cost effective while still being protective. Site cleanup using the revised approach will cost less than half of the \$49 million estimated for the original remedy. U.S. EPA is working with parties who are potentially responsible for contamination at the site to finance the cleanup.

Why is site cleanup so slow?

Although evaluating and negotiating changes in the original remedy took time, U.S. EPA and the potentially responsible parties feel that the cost savings and protectiveness offered by the modified remedy are of great value. The design completed by the potentially responsible parties is very well planned and of high quality. U.S. EPA does not anticipate any major delays once construction begins.

Sources For Additional Information

Additional information about the Buckeye site can be obtained from the site information repositories. An information repository contains documents used to make Superfund decisions. U.S. EPA encourages citizens to visit the Buckeye site information repositories at the following locations:

St. Clairsville Public Library

108 W. Main Street
St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950
(614) 695-2062



Neffs Branch, Martins Ferry Public Library

Pike Street
Neffs, OH 43940
(614) 676-0504

Citizens may also contact the following people for more information:

U.S. EPA

Ginny Narsete (P-19J)

Community Involvement
Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs
(312) 886-4359

narsete.virginia@epamail.epa.gov

Mary Tierney (SR-6J)

Remedial Project Manager
Superfund Division
(312) 353-4785
tierney.mary@epamail.epa.gov

Toll Free: 1-800-621-8431

Mony Chabria (C-29A)

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(312) 886-6842
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U.S. EPA, Region 5

77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Ohio EPA

Tom Yersavich

Public Interest Center
Ohio EPA
1800 WaterMark Drive
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43266-0149
(614) 644-2160

Pete Thompson

Site Coordinator
Ohio EPA
2195 Front Street
Logan, OH 431138
(614) 385-8501

Explanation of Significant Differences (Continued)

Reasons for Remedy Changes

The design for the remedy selected in 1991 was completed; however, it was not implemented because in March 1995, U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA received and began to examine a proposal for revising the remedy. After careful evaluation, U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA concluded that a solid waste cap was necessary over 37 acres instead of 97 acres of the site. A vegetated soil cap will be constructed over 24 of the acres originally planned for a solid waste cap, and an existing landfill cap, present on about 29 of the 97 acres, will be repaired and regraded instead of being replaced with a new solid waste cap.

The area to be covered by a vegetated cap was not used for landfilling or waste disposal; however, it may serve as a “recharge” area for the landfill. “Recharge” refers to an area where rain water and surface water run off could percolate through and “recharge” the dry subsurface. Covering the area with a soil cap and vegetation will decrease the amount of rain and surface water that could percolate into the ground and move into the landfill area.

Repairs to the existing cap include regrading, filling in areas where water could collect and pond, ensuring adequate slopes to promote surface water run off, and

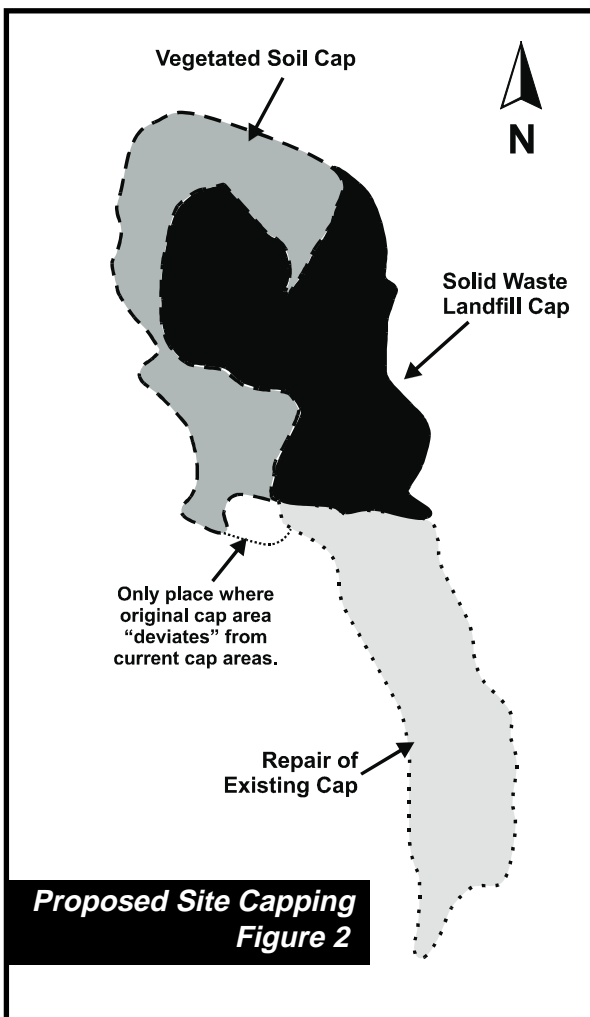
reseeding areas that lack dense grass and plant growth. The slope of the cap bordering a portion of Kings Run will be slightly steeper than originally planned.

The second major change to the 1991 remedy, evaluating the need for ground-water/leachate treatment after capping is complete, is being proposed because capping significantly affects the amount and quality of ground water and leachate generated.

U.S. EPA, in cooperation with Ohio EPA, proposes these changes because they expedite site cleanup, reduce cleanup costs, and protect human health and the environment.

What is a Subtitle D solid waste landfill cap?

A Subtitle D solid waste landfill cap consists of a 1.5-foot thick vegetated top layer, a middle drainage layer that is at least 1 foot thick, and a low permeability base layer that is at least 2 feet thick. In the modified remedy, a Subtitle D cap will cover about 37 acres of landfill area in the northern part of the site instead of the entire landfill area as originally planned.



Cleanup Schedule

Fall 1997: Install ground-water monitoring wells and piezometers in northwest corner of the site.

Spring/Summer 1998: Realign Kings Run, install ground-water/ leachate collection system, and repair existing cap.

Spring/Summer 1999: Construct vegetated soil and solid waste caps, fence the site, close Northern Impoundment, and begin long-term monitoring.

Spring/Summer 2000: Construct ground-water/leachate treatment system if needed.

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